

accountability. We need to decrease the risk to our troops and strengthen our chances for success. Our troops deserve better than they are getting. They deserve leadership that is equal to their sacrifice.

BONE MARROW AND CORD BLOOD THERAPY AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2005

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to strongly support The Bone Marrow and Cord Blood Therapy and Research Act of 2005. I introduced this legislation with Senators HATCH, DODD, ENSIGN, and REED yesterday and I appreciate their interest in this important legislation.

The Bone Marrow and Cord Blood Therapy and Research Act will help provide adult stem cell transplant material for those patients who need them, and also provide adult stem cells for scientific research.

The House has passed similar legislation and we need to act in a timely matter on this bill. The legislation that we introduced yesterday also reauthorizes the National Marrow Donor Program, an important program helping to provide adult bone marrow to sick individuals. Unfortunately, thousands of Americans have died because there was not an appropriate donor of bone marrow. However, umbilical cord blood may provide an alternative to bone marrow transplantation. Ultimately, given the current limitations of bone marrow transplantation, cord blood could become a more widespread lifesaving therapy.

I am proud of the valuable work and research taking place in North Carolina. In particular, Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg of Duke University, the director of the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Program, is leading the fight on monumental diseases such as diabetes and Alzheimer's. Dr. Kurtzberg and her team are pioneers in the field, having already performed more than 600 cord blood transplants with unrelated donors more than anyone else in the world.

Cord blood transplantation has already been used to treat a number of diseases including leukemia, lymphoma, and sickle cell anemia. The legislation we introduced yesterday will establish an inventory of 150,000 new cord blood stem cell units that reflects the diversity of the people of the United States. The goal of this legislation is to create a network so that 95 percent of Americans who need a transplant will be able to receive an appropriately matched transplant. Calling transplants the "ultimate in recycling," Dr. Kurtzberg believes, as I do, that cord blood has the potential to save the lives of countless patients nationwide.

The Bone Marrow and Cord Blood Therapy and Research Act establishes a network of qualified cord blood banks to collect, test, and preserve cord blood stem cells. Additionally, this legisla-

tion will help match donors and recipients. I am hopeful that this legislation will provide facilities like the Carolinas Cord Blood Bank at Duke with the ability to save thousands of lives as the number of bone marrow donors and cord blood units increases.

The Senate needs to move forward on this legislation so that the Federal Government can help provide the infrastructure allowing these therapies to be extensively used. I stand ready to work with my colleagues so that we can enact this legislation quickly.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST NICK IDALSKI

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Crown Point. Nick Idalski 23 years old, died on June 21 during combat operations west of Baghdad near Ramadi. With his entire life before him, Nick risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 2001 graduate from Crown Point High School, Nick was killed in combat just 1 month before he was scheduled to return home. He had been in the Army for less than 2 years, first being sent to South Korea for a short time before his deployment to Iraq. His family recounted to a local newspaper Nick's passion for being a soldier and helping other people, saying that he died doing something he truly loved. They shared their memories of how selfless, jolly, and determined Nick was, and their pride in him when he decided to join the Army. I stand here today to express the same feelings of pride and gratitude for this young Hoosier's sacrifices and those made by his family on behalf of our country.

Nick was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, and had been stationed in Ramadi since August. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother and stepfather, Kim and Richard Greenberg; his father, Tony Idalski; his two brothers, Steve and Nathan Idalski; his stepbrother, Kevin Greenberg; two stepsisters; and his longtime girlfriend, Lisa Wheeler.

Today, I join Nick's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Nick, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Nick was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Nick will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Nick's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Nick's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Nick Idalski in the official Record of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Nick's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Nick.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PROGRAM

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, from June 12-16, 2005, students from the great State of Illinois were invited to Washington, DC, by the National History Day Program to present original history projects. This scholarly group of students used their critical thinking and research skills to create exhibits, documentaries, and performances on the theme, "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding."

Congratulations to the national qualifiers and finalists from Illinois: Audrey Auyeung, Zoe Netter, Charlotte Cook, Eric Jacobson, David Gainski, Lucy Honold, Chelsea Farmer, Brandon Jakub, Kyle Schoenfelt, Dakota Smith, Erich Grundman, Charlie Curran, Jonathan Taub, Alicia Patten, Peter Contos, Honghe Li, Sebastian Prokuski, Laura Muller-Soppart, Tomas Manghi, Elizabeth May, Aruj Chaudhry, Kyle Johnson, Kathryn Evans, Laura Guzman, Rebecca Strauss, Andriy Matyukha, Sean Gallagher, Brendon Gallagher, Dan Burasinsanga, Gian Santos, Mary Kowalkowski, Ellie Terrell, Lauren Brown, Nadine Ibrahim, Annika Kolasa, Courtney Kolbe, Marissa Suchyta, David Bailey, Joseph Tepper, Tamara Vaughn, Stephanie Ebbs, Lena Walker, Maria Carvell, Robby Krajewski, Allyson Schroeder, Elizabeth Hamman, Emily Dennis, Lisa Furby, Katie Damron, Andrea Martinelli, Cristen Sawicki, Kelsey McMahon, Amelia Wallace, Allison Nichols, Sarah Siegel, Eliseo Martinez, and Jessica Drachenberg.